

Wisconsin Legislature Redistricting Staff Working Group

Meeting of January 14, 2011

Present:

Larry Barish, LRB
Jim Beaudoin, UW, APL
Matt Egerer, Assem. Dems.
Adam Foltz, Assem. GOP
Joel Gratz, Assem. Dems.
Math Heinzl, UW-LICGF
Jessica Karls Ruplinger, Leg. Council
Mike Keane, LRB
Joe Kreye, LRB
Rob Marchant, Senate Chief Clerk

Steve Miller, LRB, Chair
Lori Oehlert, LTSB
Tadd Ottman, Sen. GOP
Steve Pickett, Gov't. Acc. Board
Pam Shannon, Leg. Council
Tony Van Der Wielen, LTSB
Dan Veroff, UW, APL
Mike White, Sen. Dems.
Dana Wolff, LTSB

Minutes:

Steve Miller called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

The group approved the minutes of the October 8, 2010, meeting.

Tony Van Der Wielen gave an update on the projected date for delivery of census data. The Census Bureau will send TIGER (block geography) data to Wisconsin on January 19. According to the latest information from the Census Bureau, Wisconsin will receive its P.L. 94-171 in mid-March.

Tony said that LTSB received 2010 election data from the GAB and successfully merged it into the legislature's redistricting database.

Tony gave an update on the computer interface between the redistricting system and the legislative bill drafting system. LTSB and LRB are testing the interface with good results.

Tony reported that LTSB has been holding training sessions on AutoBound about once per month. The next Autobound training sessions will be held at LTSB on February 1 and 3.

Jim Beaudoin reported that development of local redistricting software (WISE-LR) is progressing well and functionality is 99% complete. Testing will continue into February.

Larry Barish gave a summary of forthcoming LRB publications relating to redistricting. The LRB recently published a brief, "Wisconsin Redistricting Chronology, 1950-2002." The LRB will produce three more redistricting-related publications:

1. A guidebook for local officials on creating wards, containing relevant law and a timeline.
2. After the PL 94-171 data is released, the LRB will publish a summary of the block-level data as it relates to wards, by county, by municipality by county, and by municipalities split between counties.
3. A mis-allocation survey, listing the current legislative districts compared to the official 2010 population data with percent deviation from the ideal population (one page).

Dana Wolff presented a draft letter to be sent in February 2011 from the Senate Majority Leader and the Speaker of the Assembly to county clerks informing them of the status of WISE-LR and informing them about the redistricting workshops for local officials. Larry suggested adding a paragraph on projected date that LTSB will deliver block-level census data to county officials.

The group discussed the potential for a public access redistricting tool in the form of a Web application. Tony will develop cost estimates for the creation and deployment of such a tool.

Dana presented a schedule for a series of workshops throughout the state to assist local officials with their redistricting-related duties (“the Redistricting Road Show”).

The workshops will be held as follows:

- Fri. April 1: Madison (Pyle Center)
- Thu. April 7: Appleton (Fox Valley Technical College)
- Fri. April 8: Waukesha (UW-Waukesha)
- Wed. April 13: La Crosse (UW-La Crosse)
- Thu. April 14: Eau Claire (Chippewa Technical College)
- Fri. April 15: Rhinelander (Nicolet Technical College)

The group will meet next on February 18, 2011.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.